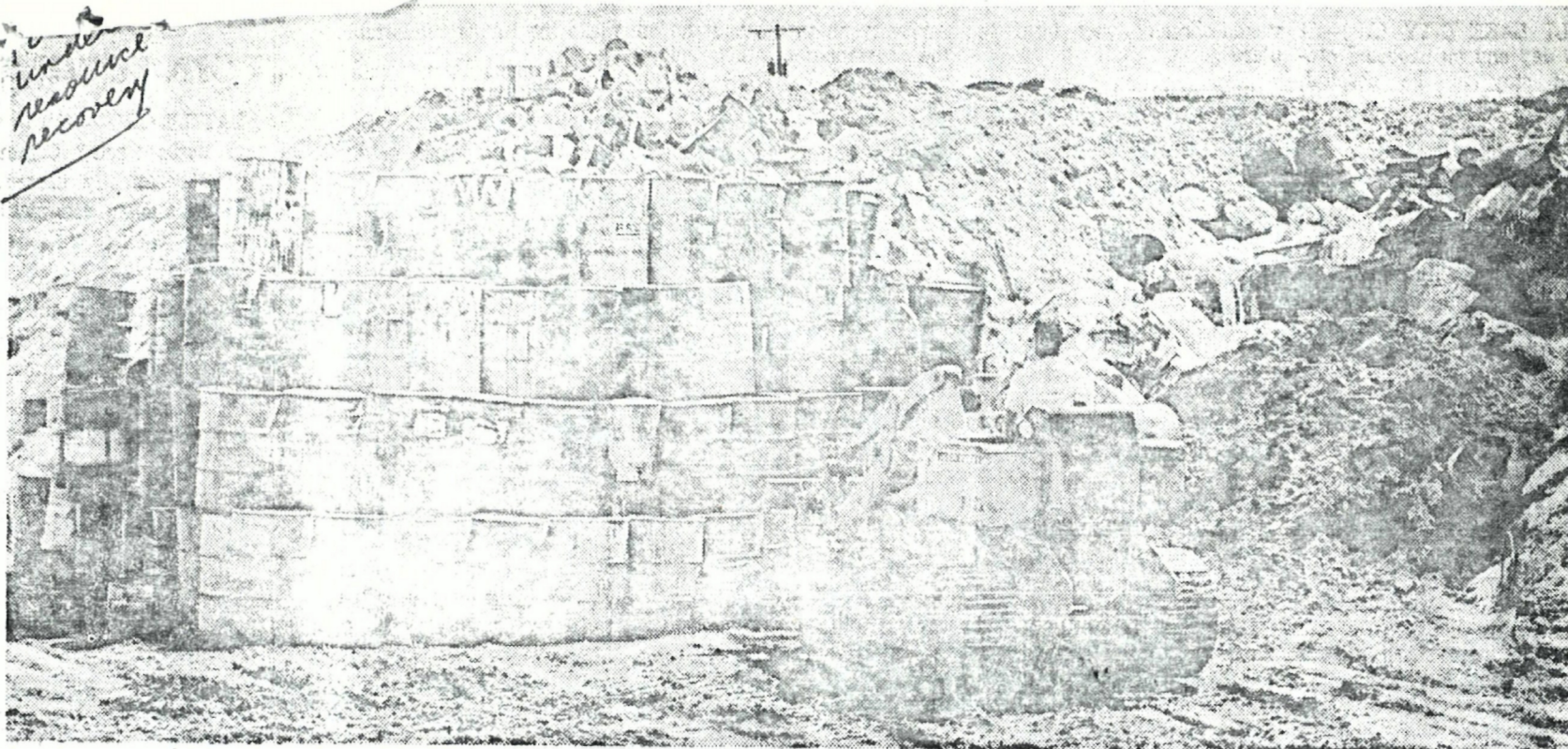


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Paint wastes are stored near Pasco by Resource Recovery Corp., Olympia. The paint hardens in the drums, which are then buried.

TCH 6-17-73

Industrial wastes buried in landfill near Pasco

By JIM PHILIP
Herald Staff Writer

Chemicals, metals and other industrial wastes from two states are being buried 5 miles northeast of Pasco.

The procedure is safe, adds James W. Moon, president of Resource Recovery Corp., Olympia, which operates the 250-acre site at the city landfill.

Served by the firm, which employs nine persons in Pasco, are metal plating industries, and paint and insecticide manufacturers.

The big problem in the past is that the industrial wastes were dumped wherever it was

John Hodgson, pollution control inspector for the Department of Ecology.

"And no one was sure of the consequences," added Moon.

The industrial wastes that include sulfuric acid and metal oxides could get into groundwater if not treated or handled properly.

The wastes are transported to Pasco primarily from industries in the state in drums or tanks approved by the Department of Transportation.

It is the most elaborate site in the Pacific Northwest, added Moon.

salvage and dispose of wastes brought in from Washington and Oregon.

Salvageable materials, such as various types of metals, most likely will be taken to smelters to be refined, said Moon, "If there are three kinds of metals, they'll separate each metal," he said.

For example, material in a chrome plated auto bumper eventually may be used in another bumper, he said.

Hodgson noted that wastes such as paint sludges and plating wastes "can't be dumped into domestic sewers."

invested in the site including land, equipment, facilities and preparation to meet federal and state standards, Moon said.

Safeguards include lined ponds, moisture sensors in the soil to test for leaks, test wells, and an impermeable layer of ground about 40 feet down.

He added that 40 wells in the vicinity are tested. If there is any change in content, "we'll stop," said Moon.

Pasco was picked because of dry weather and "it is very convenient to operate at a sanitary landfill site which has been approved for handling these type of

With most of the wastes more than 90 per cent water, the arid Tri-Cities enhance the evaporation process, officials said.

Once the water evaporates, the solids are stored until ready to be shipped to the smelter.

Storing is in trenches sealed at the top and bottom, said Moon.

Moon expects the facilities to expand as environmental laws become stiffer. He said there is room for expansion onto another 70 acres and space to handle wastes for another 50 years.

Moon described the work as a team effort with the State

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